

3

Animal Product
Manual

Reference

Foreign Meat and Meat Products, Equine

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Introduction and Subsidiary Locator

The *Foreign Meat and Meat Products, Equine* section covers horse meat and horse meat products.

No specific regulations govern the importation of horse meat. Horses **do not** get FMD. However, unless horse meat can be differentiated from that of ruminants, the horse meat cannot enter U.S. commerce if the meat is from a country infected with FMD. When a VS permit does **not** authorize entry, continue to [Table 3-10-1](#) which directs you to the final regulatory action to take. Inspect the importation to determine if there is bone-in meat with hoof attached (the hoof is attached by natural attachments to each portion of the carcass).

TABLE 3-10-1 Regulatory Action on Meat and Meat Products of Horse

If there is:	And the country of origin is:	And:	Then:
Hoof attached			RELEASE (because you are able to verify that the meat originated from a horse)
No hoof attached	Affected with FMD	Argentina or Paraguay	GO to Table 3-10-3
		Other than Argentina or Paraguay	◆ REFUSE ENTRY ◆ PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options including the option to have an identification test done (see Table 2-2-11)
	Free from FMD		GO to Table 3-10-4

Horse Meat from Argentina or Paraguay

Argentina and Paraguay, which are known to be affected with FMD, are the only affected countries that have horse meat inspection systems approved by USDA for exporting edible (animal consumption) horse meat to the United States.

Determine if the importation is accompanied by a USDA approved edible horse meat certificate. (See [Figure 3-10-1](#) for an example.)

OFFICIAL HORSE MEAT CERTIFICATE FOR HORSE MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS

Place: _____ Date: _____
(City) (Country)

The undersigned Official Medical Veterinary, CERTIFIES: That the horse meat and/or horse food products herein described were derived from horses which received ante mortem and post mortem veterinary inspection at the time of slaughter, and that such horse meat products are sound, healthful, wholesome, and otherwise fit for human consumption and have not been treated with, and do not contain any preservative, coloring matter, or other substance not permitted by the regulations governing the horse meat inspection of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, filed with me, and that said horse meat and horse meat food products have been handled only in a sanitary manner in this country.

Kind of Product	Species of livestock derived from	Number of pieces or containers	Weight
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Identification marks on products and containers: _____

Consignor: _____
(Address)

(Address)

Establishment number: _____

Consignee: _____

Destination: _____

Shipping marks: _____
(Name of official authorized by the national foreign government to issue inspection certificates for meat food products exported to the United States.)

Official title: _____



FIGURE 3-10-1 Example of a USDA Approved Horse Meat Certificate (Blank)

TABLE 3-10-2 Determine Whether to Authorize Shipment of Horse Meat from Argentina or Paraguay

If the importation is:	Then:
Consigned to an approved establishment for rendering or processing into pet food	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete form)
Not consigned to an approved establishment	CONTINUE on this page


When the importation of horse meat from Argentina or Paraguay is accompanied by a USDA approved horse meat certificate but **not** consigned to an approved establishment, further action is taken. The action is based on whether or **not** you are located at a port of arrival where PPQ conducts identification tests.

TABLE 3-10-3 Action to Take on Horse Meat from Argentina or Paraguay Dependent upon Consignment to an Approved Establishment

If the importation is:	And the certificate is:	And the importation is:	Then:
Accompanied by a certificate	A USDA approved horse meat certificate	Consigned to an approved establishment for rendering or processing into pet food	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete form)
		Not consigned to an approved establishment	Go to Identification Tests on page 3-10-6
Not accompanied by a certificate	Not approved by USDA		◆ REFUSE ENTRY ◆ PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11) including the option to have an identification test done
			◆ GO to Identification Tests on page 3-10-6 if the importer requests an identification test

Horse Meat from a Country Known to Be Free from FMD


TABLE 3-10-4 Regulatory Action to Take on Horse Meat from a Country Known to Be Free from FMD

If the importation is:	And the importation is:	Then:
Accompanied by an official certificate verifying the species as horse, burro, or mule		RELEASE
Not accompanied by an official certificate verifying species	Consigned to an approved establishment for rendering or processing into pet foods	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete form)
	Not consigned to an approved establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD ◆ PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options including the option to have an identification test done (see Table 2-2-11) ◆ GO to Identification Tests on page 3-10-6 if the importer requests an identification test

Identification Tests

Procedures for these identification tests will **not** be listed in this manual because they are specific to those designated ports who communicate directly with laboratories.

TABLE 3-10-5 Identification Tests of Horse Meat

If your port of arrival:	And after conducting a test the results are:	Then:
Conducts identification tests	Negative for containing ruminant tissue	RELEASE
	Positive for containing ruminant tissue	◆ REFUSE ENTRY ◆ PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
Does not conduct identification tests		◆ DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD ◆ CONTACT PPQ-VRS-AQI or PPQ-VRS-HQ personnel for further action (see Appendix H)